



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
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### **Governor Hoeven Proclaims October 15 as *Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day***

BISMARCK, N.D. – Governor John Hoeven has proclaimed October 15 as *Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day in North Dakota*, a day of remembrance for babies who have died too soon, from early pregnancy loss through infant death.

“This day is meant to provide support and resources for parents who have lost babies due to miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirths, birth defects, sudden infant death syndrome, unintentional and intentional injuries and other causes,” said Kjersti Hintz, Maternal and Child Health nurse consultant for the North Dakota Department of Health. “We hope that on this special day, the residents of North Dakota will recognize the pain that many families experience and take the time to reach out to those who are grieving.”

Activities of remembrance are planned throughout the state during the month of October. Dana Schweitzer is a Bismarck mother who is grieving the loss of her daughter, Lakin, who passed away in September 2008. Schweitzer worked with the North Dakota Legislative Assembly to promote Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. “I hope this day of remembrance will help families to know that their babies are gone, but not forgotten,” Schweitzer said.

For more information, contact Kjersti Hintz, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2784.

*Please note: Proclamation follows.*

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PROCLAMATION  
**PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS REMEMBRANCE DAY**  
OCTOBER 15, 2009

**WHEREAS**, each year, approximately one million pregnancies in the United States end in miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn baby; and

**WHEREAS**, it is a great tragedy to lose the life of a child; and

**WHEREAS**, even the shortest lives are valuable, and the grief of those who mourn the loss of these lives should be remembered by a compassionate public; and

**WHEREAS**, the observance of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day may provide comfort to those who have lost a child through miscarriage, stillbirth or other complications; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day enables us to consider how, as individuals and communities, we can help meet the needs of bereaved mothers, fathers and family members, and work to prevent the causes of these deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, North Dakotans are encouraged to observe this day with appropriate compassion, programs and activities, and to remember the lives that have been lost and the families who mourn them.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim October 15, 2009, **PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS REMEMBRANCE DAY** in the state of North Dakota.

John Hoeven  
Governor

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